

# Our Camp Community Needs You: Become an ACA Visitor TODAY!

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## What is an ACA Visitor, and What Do They Do?

The **ACA Accreditation Program** is a peer-reviewed, nationally-recognized program powered by volunteer "Visitors." Visitors come from within the camp community and their role is to review written documentation, observe, and interview camps to confirm compliance of the standards outlined in the Accreditation Process Guide. Visitors review documents through online submissions, and conduct onsite visits to see camp programs in action.

## Why Volunteer Visitors?

This program is centered on a peer-review process to ensure that camps are meeting the industry standards for safety and risk management. Like most accreditation programs, including programs for education and medical institutions, our peer-review process is essential to maintaining the integrity and caliber of the standards being evaluated. Having colleagues evaluate other camps demonstrates that those with the Accredited Camp logo have undergone a consistent and thorough review process. So how do we ensure and protect the value of **ACA Accreditation**? With Volunteers! And more than ever we need Volunteers from the camp field to join our team this year!

## How Can YOU Get Involved? What Training Do You Need?

When you let our team know that you're interested, we'll reach out to you directly to talk you through the training and visiting processes and timeline. Once trained, you will work with our team to discuss which camps and locations you would like to visit. Don't worry, we'll provide free training to help you prepare for this epic Volunteer role!

## Worried About Time? You Can Choose Your Level of Time Commitment.

There are various, and flexible, ways that you can serve as a Visitor, including both virtual and in-person involvement. You'll work with the team to discuss how much time you have available and in what ways would work best for your schedule and time commitment. Visitors can give anywhere from 6 - 20 hours annually depending on their role and availability (including training time).



## What Are the Benefits to Being a Visitor?

There are so many advantages to being a Visitor, but here are some of the main ones that we hear from our current team of Visitors:

- Exclusive and FREE professional development events twice a year that are only open to ACA Illinois Visitors and Committee Volunteers;
- Access to a growing network of Nonprofits, For Profits, and Organizational Professionals;
- A distinct opportunity to demonstrate executive skills on your resume, including critical thinking, risk management, and leadership proficiency;
- The experience of seeing how other camps operate in action;
- Primary access to information, changes and trends in the camp industry;
- Discounted Membership\*; and
- Relationships and a sense of community with other professionals seeking to help all camps strengthen their safety and risk management.

\*Please reach out if you need assistance paying for individual membership as a Visitor.

## Here are What a Few of Our Current Visitors Have to Say



**Megan Owens, Ph.D.**,  
Assistant Professor  
WIU Department of  
Recreation, Park and  
Tourism Administration

"I became a visitor for a few reasons. First, it's a great way to give back to the field that has provided so much for me. Second, it's a great way to learn from other camp professionals and see a wide variety of facilities."

**Mike Selep**, Executive Director at  
Northern Will County  
Special Recreation Association

"Being a visitor has helped my personal and professional growth and increased my love of camp by exposing me to the work of amazing camp professionals that have a common goal of developing youth. You would think that the process of evaluating a group of standards would be rigid and boring; however, each professional shares their unique approach to youth development through the power of their camp. It has opened my eyes to new ideas and creative ways of thinking that has given me fresh perspective and additional enthusiasm for camp."

